

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Madhya Pradesh Flying Club (MPFC), situated at Indore, has a branch at Bhopal. In addition, there is a private flying institute at Indore known as UDAN Research & Flying Institute Pvt. Ltd. The number of aircraft owned by MPFC is 6. The private institute owns 4 aircraft.

(c) A total number of 687 and 92 pupil pilots have been trained by MPFC, Indore (including its branch) and UDAN Research & Flying Institute Pvt. Ltd. respectively during the last three years.

(d) The MPFC charges Rs. 701 and Rs. 570 per hour for training on Cessna and Pushpak aircraft respectively upto Private Pilot Licence (PPL). The fee charged after PPL upto Commercial Pilot Licence (CPL) is Rs. 1800 and Rs. 1375 per hour respectively on these aircraft. The UDAN Research & Flying Institute charges Rs. 6.50 lakhs in the form of package from Student Pilot Licence to CPL.

(e) to (g) Subsidy is provided by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation to MPFC upto PPL and subsequent flying for renewal of PPL/CPL at the rates of Rs. 701 and Rs. 570 for Cessna and Pushpak aircraft respectively. No subsidy is provided to the private Institute.

Gauge Conversion

4195. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for the conversion of Palakkad-Pollachi metre gauge line into broad gauge line;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) This line is not included in the first phase of the Action Plan taken up under project Uniguage.

Completion of Projects in Abroad

4196. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of projects in foreign countries completed by the Indian Railways during 1996;

(b) the number of projects in hand at present;

(c) whether any new works have been awarded or negotiations are going on for railway projects in foreign countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the total foreign exchange earned by rail contracts in foreign countries during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Indian Railways execute projects in foreign countries through its PSUs like IRCON & RITES. The projects completed during 1996 by RITES are 25 and by IRCON are 05.

(b) At present, RITES has 25 and IRCON has 13 projects in hand in foreign countries.

(c) and (d) Recently, IRCON has secured 3 projects in Malaysia, 1 in Nepal and negotiation is going on for 1 project in Burkina Faso. RITES is continuing negotiations for 38 foreign projects.

(e) The details of foreign exchange earned during the last three years as under :

(Fig. in millions of Rs.)			
Year	Rites	Ircon	Total
1993-94	78.45	291	369.45
1994-95	116.70	329	445.70
1995-96	235.49	1888	2122.49
Total			2937.64

Introduction of Train between Howrah and Haldia

4197. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received representation for introduction of a superfast train between Howrah and Haldia and construction of double line from Panskura to Haldia;

(b) if so, whether the Government have since taken any decision in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Some representations have been received in this regard. However, no representations have been received for construction of double line between Haldia and Panskura.

(b) to (d) The proposal for a superfast train was examined but not found feasible due to operational and resource constraints. However, Howrah and Haldia are connected by 2 pairs of EMU locals.

Shortage of Drinking Water in Liluah Railway Quarters

4198. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the acute drinking water problem in Liluah Railway quarters;